



Cllr Barry Durkin
Chairman
West Mercia Police and Crime Panel

22nd August 2023

By Email – barry.durkin@herefordshire.gov.uk

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your letter of 7th August, and for the Panel's consideration of my Annual Report.

To respond to the two points that were raised in your letter:

1. 'Frontline policing' is not a straightforward term, nor is it well or consistently defined. In an environment where criminality frequently takes place away from a public setting such as domestic abuse, cyber crime), the nature of 'frontline policing', is an evolving practice.

More than 90% of West Mercia's police officers operate in what would be seen as frontline roles. Of the 500 additional officers added to West Mercia's establishment in recent years I am confident that the number in frontline roles will be higher than that figure of 90%. As the Panel is aware, I have continued to prioritise ever greater resource to community policing in recent years, along with significant investments in (amongst other functions) investigations, violence against women and girls and neighbourhood crime fighting teams.

2. The feedback from the Panel is noted. It will of course be a matter for the Commissioner to determine after the 2024 PCC elections, but certainly my intent for the Panel, via the budget metrics and performance reports, is to look to provide a consistent representation of key crime measures, along with relevant context / narrative.

Yours sincerely,

John Campion
Police and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia